to by banks in providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to the borrowers affected by natural calamities such as floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. can be effectively implemented in the clusters identified.

Introduction of polymer currency

487. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce polymer currency instead of paper;

(b) if so, whether any proposal to this effect has been received from any foreign country; and

(c) what is the progress towards introduction of polymer currency as it will last much longer than paper currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Government of India had set up a Committee of Experts in October, 1999 to examine printing of Indian bank notes on polymer substrate. Based on results of the printing trials and laboratory tests, the Committeee as well as the RBI had found the proposal unsuitable.

However, proposals for use of various raw materials for use in currency notes are received from the intending suppliers from time to time. Exploration of alternatives for increasing circulation life of currency notes is a continuous process.

World Bank Assistance to U.P.

†488. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects initiated with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of amount provided as grant by the above banks, project-wise; and

(c) the details of works carried out so far in Uttar Pradesh with the assistance provided by above banks, project-wise and region-wise?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.